

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

ETHIOPIA: FLOODS

Appeal No. MDRET003 (revised)
(Glide no. FL-2006-000122-ETH)
29 September 2006

Special focus on Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) and Cholera

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

Appeal no. MDRET003; Operations Update no. 4; Period covered: 18 September to 29 September 2006; Appeal coverage: 12.1%; [<Click here to go directly to the contributions list on the website>](#)

Appeal history:

- Preliminary Appeal – <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRET003PA.pdf> – was launched on 19 August 2006 for CHF 5,212,634 (USD 4.2 million or EUR 3.2 million) to assist 9,000 beneficiaries for 6 months.
- Operations Update no. 1 - <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRET00301.pdf> - dated 22 August 2006.
- Operations Update no. 2 - <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRET00302.pdf> - dated 26 August 2006.
- Operations Update no. 3 - <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRET00303.pdf> - dated 18 September 2006.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 294,000 (USD 238,443 or EUR 186,904)

Outstanding needs: CHF 4,582,892 (USD 3,731,389 or EUR 2,908,756)

Operational Summary: The Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) health coordinator and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) conducted an assessment in the Amhara Region in conjunction with the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) implementation. Serious problems and needs arising from the current treatment of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) and cholera cases in the Amhara Region include an acute shortage of the necessary medication, including Ringers Lactate and oral rehydration salts (ORS). The ERCS has already supplied two cholera kits to this region, however it is clear that not only will there be a need for additional kits, Ringers lactate and ORS, but the ERCS will be required to scale up its monitoring, training and information campaign to support the distributing agencies such as the Ministry of Health (MoH), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and others. This special focus update addresses AWD and cholera; the other appeal objectives will be reported on separately.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

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- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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Background

The rainy season in Ethiopia usually begins in June or July, but the country has been experiencing unusually extended and widespread rainfalls, resulting in flash floods and the overflow of rivers, lakes and dams. By the end of August large areas in as many as eight regions¹ of the country had been affected. Although floods in many parts of Ethiopia (as well as other countries in the region) are a yearly phenomena, the magnitude of the current flooding is considered unprecedented. Given the fact that the rainy season in some parts of Ethiopia, particularly South Omo, normally only starts in September and runs until the end of October, it is expected that the flooding situation in some areas will deteriorate further. The scope of the disaster therefore continues to unfold, but the impact is clear in terms of lives lost, infrastructure damaged, livelihoods affected, and basic coping mechanisms stretched. Preliminary reports and statistics gathered through the Ethiopian Government Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Agency (DPPA) indicate substantial losses of livestock, severe losses and/or damage to crops, and a serious threat of health risks to animals. The flooding is also an aggravating factor in the further spread of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) and malaria which is endemic. AWD often leads to outbreaks of cholera if not treated immediately. **Photos below: treatment for AWD in Amhara region.**



The AWD epidemic has existed since April 2006, and has rapidly spread throughout the country. The Ministry of Health recently had confirmed over 16,800 cases and some 196 deaths in five regions including the capital Addis Ababa where five AWD cases were reported. Displacement coupled with poor or limited access to clean water as well as a lack of awareness on hygiene-related issues can considerably increase risks of transmission of the disease particularly among the affected population. The Amhara Region is the worst-hit area by this outbreak. Related to AWD, there is a growing acceptance within Government and other responding agencies of the potential for a full cholera outbreak, and therefore concerns that within the direct emergency response to the

flooding situation the agencies need to further develop health awareness. Surveillance and case management must become a greater focus of activities. While the numbers of flood victims do not appear to be massive, the numbers that could potentially be impacted by cholera are considered much more serious.

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Operational developments

The assessment of the Amhara Region by the Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) health coordinator and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS), conducted in conjunction with the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) implementation, identified serious problems and needs arising from the current treatment of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) and cholera cases in the Amhara Region, which is the primary target area for the ERCS and for the Federation's Appeal. This finding was confirmed in the Federal WES (Water, Environment and Sanitation) Task Force meeting held today at the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), and chaired by the Ministry with the assistance of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The numbers of confirmed cases and the case fatality rate (CFR) for the Amhara Region is the highest in Ethiopia, and this was confirmed by representatives of the MoWR, UNICEF, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Holland and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). There is an urgent need for medical supplies in this area. The ERCS, at the request of the Ethiopian Government, has committed to the supply of cholera kits and is in the process of preparing two for immediate shipment. Further procurement of cholera kits and other appropriate medicaments is now a priority. The ERCS and Federation have agreed to undertake this additional mobilization.



The MoWR and UNICEF representatives both noted that there is a country-wide shortage of the necessary medication, including Ringers Lactate and oral rehydration salts (ORS). As a demonstration of the importance of the ERCS in addressing the AWD/cholera issues in Ethiopia, the ERCS and the Federation have been invited to participate in the AWD Task Force meetings.

The health delegate arriving this week will assist the ERCS in developing their plan of action (PoA). In the interim, and in the interest of the meeting, the immediate and developing needs in Ethiopia, were an additional five (5) cholera kits as well as 10,000 litres of Ringers Lactate.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress and impact

The FACT health mission has identified not only the needs noted above but have consulted and discussed operational modalities and cooperation with MSF Greece who have a well established technical presence in the Gondar area but who would welcome additional support and cooperation with the Red Cross. The mission identified additional affected populations in more remote or inaccessible areas where they have returned to address the need to repair homes and more importantly prepare for the upcoming planting season. There is concern that these areas be covered by the proposed Red Cross operations. Further consultation and operational planning, training and resource support with the Gondar and other ERCS branches will be a critical component of this health intervention.

Progress/Achievements

Early procurement of cholera kits will allow the ERCS, supported by the Federation, to immediately support the needs for the increased cases of AWD/cholera; two kits have already been dispatched. However it is clear that not only will there be a need for additional kits, Ringers lactate and ORS, but the ERCS will be required to scale-up its monitoring, training and information campaign to support the distributing agencies such as the Ministry of Health (MoH), MSF and others.

Impact: With an already chronically vulnerable population further impacted by the affects of flooding and now the threat of a serious outbreak of AWD/cholera, the priority to address the AWD issue is paramount. The

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population is adamantly preparing for the critical planting season with all the work and effort that is required. The prospect of illness adds to the already difficult conditions faced by the population's return to destroyed and damaged homes and farms.

Constraints: The response to the appeal has improved, thanks to recent donations and additional positive feedback from partner national societies (PNS's) that applications to back donors are under consideration. Nonetheless the appeal is under funded and funds or donations for the procurement of additional cholera kits, Ringers lactate and ORS are being sought. The ERCS capacity to monitor, disseminate and train cholera-based activities will need to be supported and the provision of a longer term health delegate from the latter part of October to March next year is critical.

Federation Coordination

The ERCS and the Floods Operations Team in consultation with the Emergency Coordinator and with support from the Regional Logistics Unit in Dubai will coordinate the procurement of the additional supplies and provide support to the ERCS in the distribution, monitoring and quality control of the use and follow-up of the kits. In addition volunteers will provide additional dissemination and awareness initiatives in response to the Ministry of Health request for additional assistance and support.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

The Red Cross Red Crescent is dedicated to support vulnerable communities specifically in the areas of health, one of the four core activities within Strategy 1010. Framework agreements guarantee a reliable supply of cholera kits and other essential supplies and delivery can be well coordinated with PNS donors or directly through the RLU.

National Society Capacity Building

The ERCS has limited technical capacity in case management and direct clinical follow-up but can provide important support to the MoH, MSF or other health professionals in the distribution, monitoring accountability and awareness elements,

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information.

A strong emphasis on a health, hygiene communication strategy is contained within the existing appeal and will be enforced to address the current situation described above.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

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ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MDRET003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

02/10/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					5,212,634		TOTAL COVERAGE
							12.1%
AMERICAN - RC		85,000	USD	104,397	19.09.06	PROCUREMENT OF RELIEF ITEMS	
CANADIAN - GOVT		75,000	CAD	83,111	18.08.06		
IRISH - RC		30,000	EUR	47,190	18.08.06	PROCUREMENT OF UNIMIX, VOLUNTEERS, DISTRIBUTION	
JAPANESE - RC		29,800	USD	36,743	22.08.06		
NETHERLANDS - RC		40,000	EUR	63,022	04.09.06		
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,000,000	SEK	170,500	26.08.06		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				504,963	CHF		9.7%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
BELGIAN - RC				124,779	06.09.06	4000 JERRYCANS, 4000 BLANKETS, 4000 TARPAULINS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				124,779	CHF	2.4%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	